



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

CHURCH DIARY

April 2022

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www.cranfieldchurch.org
[www.hulcotewithsalford
churches.co.uk](http://www.hulcotewithsalfordchurches.co.uk)

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Article III: Of the Going Down of Christ into Hell

We continue our monthly series exploring the 39 Articles of Religion of the Church of England. This month we consider Article III, which reads: "As Christ died for us, and was buried, so also it is to be believed, that he went down into Hell."

Although this is the shortest of the Articles, it has proved to be the most debated. This article is clearly influenced by The Apostles' Creed, with its line: "he descended into hell", or the modern version: "he descended to the dead". But what does it mean that Christ descended into hell? And is there biblical support for such a view?

Some Christians have expressed theological unease concerning the belief that Christ descended into hell. After all, didn't Jesus declare from the cross: "It is finished!"? It is sometimes argued that this article undermines our belief that on the cross Jesus paid in full for our sin. Indeed, in our service of Holy Communion the minister proclaims: "we remember his offering of himself made *once for all* upon the cross", and in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer this is even clearer as the minister declares that on the cross Jesus, "made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world." In other words, once Jesus had died on the cross there was nothing left to be paid for sin. His death was once and for all.

But if this is the case, then did Jesus really descend into hell? After all, hell is a place of punishment, and if, "it is finished" on the cross then Jesus had already borne the full punishment for sin on the cross.

However, though Jesus' descent to hell or the dead did not add anything to his work of salvation on the cross, it does express to us the *spiritual* reality of Jesus' sufferings. Jesus' great act on the cross was not to bear physical suffering for us (though this must not be minimalised), but the great act of the cross was to bear our spiritual separation from God on our behalf. Jesus cried: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?!" And as he did that we catch a glimpse of the spiritual agony that Jesus underwent for us. And the greater our understanding of exactly what Jesus undertook for us, the greater our praise, and thanks will be to him for our salvation that he has won.

For those who would like to explore the Thirty-nine Articles in more detail, an excellent book would be: The Faith We Confess: An Exposition of the Thirty-nine Articles by Gerald Bray.

APRIL 2022

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Friday 1st	1:30pm	Craft Group	Cranfield Church
Saturday 2nd	6:30pm	Bedford Road Home Group	95 Bedford Road
Sunday 3rd	9:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion - 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service (with Baptism and followed by Prayer Meeting)	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Monday 4th - Thursday 7th		Chellington Youth Camp	Chellington Youth Centre
Thursday 7th	7:30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Cranfield Church
Friday 8th	1:30pm 7:30pm	Craft Group Walk House Close Home Group via Zoom – Contact Linda Pearson (<i>l.d.pearson@btinternet.com</i> – Tel. 751358)	Cranfield Church Zoom
Saturday 9th	10:00am 6:30pm	Church Working Party Bedford Road Home Group	Cranfield Church 95 Bedford Road
Sunday 10th	9:00am 10.30am	Holy Communion – 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service (with Holy Communion)	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Wednesday 13th		-- No Wednesday Service --	
Thursday 14th	7:30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Cranfield Church
Friday 15th	11:00am 3:00pm	Good Friday 'Hour At The Cross' Service Good Friday 'Hour At The Cross' Service	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Saturday 16th	1:30pm 6:30pm	Easter Family Trail Bedford Road Home Group	Start at Cranfield Church 95 Bedford Road
Sunday 17th Easter Sunday	9:00am 10.30am	Holy Communion - 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service (with Holy Communion and followed by Easter Egg Hunt)	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Tuesday 19th	7:30pm	Hulcote and Salford PCC Meeting	TBC
Thursday 21st	9:30am 4:00pm 7:30pm	Pitter-Patter Rock Solid Bell Ringing Practice	Village Hall Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Friday 22nd	1:30pm 7:30pm	Craft Group Walk House Close Home Group via Zoom – Contact Linda Pearson (<i>l.d.pearson@btinternet.com</i> – Tel. 751358)	Cranfield Church Zoom
Saturday 23rd	6:30pm	Bedford Road Home Group	95 Bedford Road
Sunday 24th	9:00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer - 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service (with Holy Communion)	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Monday 25th	7:30pm	Cranfield PCC Meeting	Zoom/Phone
Tuesday 26th	7:30pm	Hulcote and Salford APCM	Salford Church
Wednesday 27th	10:00am 7:30pm	Holy Communion Service Holiday Bible Club Meeting	Cranfield Church Cranfield Baptist Church
Thursday 28th	9:30am 4:00pm 7:30pm	Pitter-Patter Rock Solid Bell Ringing Practice	Village Hall Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Friday 29th	1:30pm	Craft Group	Cranfield Church
Saturday 30th	6:30pm	Bedford Road Home Group	95 Bedford Road